

Message Text

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61
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02 PC-10 IO-14

COME-00 INT-08 SWF-02 DRC-01 /206 W

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R 201355Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9637
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAID EAGR PINT ET FT
SUBJ: CONTROVERSY CONCERNING RELIEF GRAIN

REF: ADIS A-127 AND A-122 OF 5/74

ROME FOR USRO

1. ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS JUNE 18-19, OFFICIAL FRENCH SOURCES IN DJIBOUTI CLAIMED THAT DURING PAST 6 MONTHS 1800 MT OF FOREIGN DONATED RELIEF GRAIN WERE EXPORTED FROM DJIBOUTI TO NORTH YEMEN AND 12,000 MT OF RELIEF GRAIN ARE CURRENTLY ROTTING ON DOCKS. ETHIOPIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS FURTHER STATED THAT THESE SAME FRENCH SOURCES CLAIMED THAT DURING SAME PERIOD 9,400 MT OF GRAIN WERE EXPORTED FROM ASSAB. (ARTICLES POUCHED AF/E).

2. REPORTS HAVE RESULTED IN WIDESPREAD CRITICISM OF RELIEF COORDINATING COMMITTEE (RCC) AND NEW CABINET GENERALLY. LOWER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 19 IN VERY HEATED SESSION, GRILLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RCC COMMISSIONER SHEMELES ADUGANA, WHO DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF RELIEF

GRAIN EXPORTS. RED CROSS OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO REFUSED CHARGES THAT FOREIGN DONATED RELIEF GRAIN WAS EXPORTED FROM ETHIOPIA. AFTER CRITICIZING NEW CABINET'S POOR PERFORMANCE IN ALLEVIATING DROUGHT-RELATED SUFFERING, LOWER HOUSE ESTABLISHED 14-MEMBER COMMITTEE TO MONITOR DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF GRAIN. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MILITARY ARE ALSO INVESTIGATING POTENTIAL SCANDAL. REPORTS FROM DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS SUGGEST RURAL POPULACE AWARE OF CHARGES AND EXPRESSING CRITICISM OF IEG.

3. KNOWLEDGEABLE AND BALANCED ETHIOPIAN CONTACT PREDICTS THAT UNLESS IEG CAN PROVE ABOVE CHARGES ARE FALSE, RELIEF COMMISSIONER SHEMELES' AND EVEN PERHAPS ENDALKACHEW'S POSITIONS ARE IN JEOPARDY. SAME SOURCE BELIEVES FRENCH SHOULD HAVE CONFINED THEIR COMMENTARY TO AREA OF FAMILIARITY AND NOT INCLUDED ASSAB.

WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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